

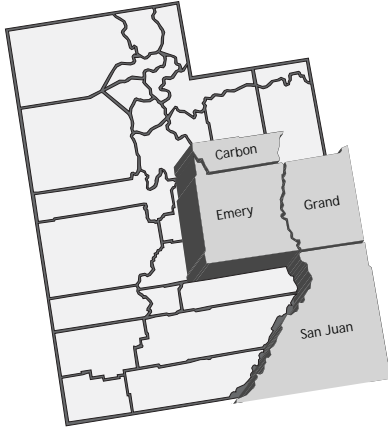
Workforce News



A quarterly publication of the Department of Workforce Services; issued Sept, 2008

Southeast Utah: Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan

jobs.utah.gov



Inside:

- ✦ Carbon: Jobs increase in first quarter, mostly in coal mining
- ✦ Emery: Construction in industry drove job growth Jan-Mar.
- ✦ Grand: Job growth cools in first quarter
- ✦ San Juan: Layoffs hurt job growth



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Navigating Occupational Wages

Every year the Department of Workforce Services (DWS), in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), releases a new series of occupational wage estimates for Utah and a number of regions within the state. One of those regions is our own eastern region, which encompasses the seven counties from Daggett to San Juan—as well as Wasatch County, for sampling reasons. This year's release, like those of previous years, paints a very interesting picture of this unique corner of the state. While the average annual wage for the region in 2007 was estimated to be \$33,910—significantly below the state's average of \$37,080—this overall look obscures some more interesting trends under the surface. However, before we get to that, a few words about how this data comes into being.

In some sense we truly do rely on the wisdom of crowds when DWS collects occupational wage information for the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)

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See the wealth of information at our Employer Resource Center Web page: <http://jobs.utah.gov/employer/resource>

Navigating Occupational Wages

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Occupational Wages by Major Occupational Group, Utah and the Eastern Counties and measures of statistical significance, May 2007

Major Occupational Group	Utah	Eastern Counties	Significant Difference (1)
All Occupations	\$37,080	\$33,910	Yes
Management occupations	\$84,720	\$70,870	Yes
Business and financial operations occupations	\$56,540	\$51,980	Yes
Computer and mathematical occupations	\$65,530	\$51,100	Yes
Architecture and engineering occupations	\$63,140	\$58,470	No
Life, physical, and social science occupations	\$50,820	\$44,330	Yes
Community and social services occupations	\$35,540	\$32,400	Yes
Legal occupations	\$84,370	\$41,880	Yes
Education, training, and library occupations	\$40,900	\$32,990	Yes
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	\$42,200	\$29,140	Yes
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	\$61,610	\$50,490	Yes
Healthcare support occupations	\$23,310	\$21,260	Yes
Protective service occupations	\$34,510	\$33,810	No
Food preparation and serving related occupations	\$18,510	\$18,780	No
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	\$21,320	\$20,720	No
Personal care and service occupations	\$22,930	\$21,520	No
Sales and related occupations	\$33,360	\$28,060	Yes
Office and administrative support occupations	\$27,680	\$25,790	Yes
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	\$24,240	\$26,430	Yes
Construction and extraction occupations	\$35,160	\$38,630	Yes
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	\$39,190	\$38,050	No
Production occupations	\$29,240	\$35,480	Yes
Transportation and material moving occupations	\$31,210	\$35,870	Yes

(1) Statistical significance testing at the 90-percent confidence level.

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

program. Since it would be nearly impossible to reliably gather and process every worker's occupational information on a yearly basis, the OES program makes use of a survey of Utah's employers—roughly 3,500 in 2007—to generate a statistically valid snapshot of the entire economy.

Of course, there are a couple of subtle caveats to remember when working with this data: one, since the data is collected from a survey, the results can deviate from reality for all the reasons a survey can be flawed (who hasn't fibbed when filling out a survey?); and two, since we use a survey there is a considerable time lag involved between gathering, cleaning, processing, and publishing the data. Nevertheless, even with these challenges, the data published by DWS and the BLS is the best and most comprehensive wage

information available in the nation.

One quick way to take the pulse of wages in the local economy is to look at the top paying occupations. The top ten occupations with highest average annual earnings in 2007 included chief executives (\$128,940), followed by: pharmacists (\$103,880), family and general practitioners (\$102,210), petroleum engineers (\$97,610), mining and geological engineers (including mining safety engineers) (\$87,070), financial managers (\$84,050), underground mining loading machine operators (\$75,690), electrical engineers (\$74,550), general and operations managers (\$74,030), and environmental scientists and specialists (\$73,380).

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County News

Carbon County:

After suffering a fairly miserable 2007, Carbon County's labor market perked up in the first quarter of 2008. Compared with the same quarter last year, the county saw employment increase 1.6 percent, or a yearly increase of 149 jobs. An increase in coal mining activity was the main catalyst for this rise in economic activity. Additional gains in transportation and private healthcare services were mainly negated by strong losses in other services, professional and technical services, retail trade, and information.

Emery County:

A strong surge in construction employment helped prop up Emery County's economy in the first quarter of 2008. Since the first quarter of 2007, the number of jobs in the county grew by only 0.5 percent, or an addition of 18 positions. Without the year-over addition of nearly 113 positions in construction—many in industrial construction—the county would surely have lost jobs compared to last year. The worst performing industries were transportation and warehousing and other services, which combined lost more than 100 jobs over the year.

Grand County:

Perhaps it was the champagne, but Grand County's labor

market started 2008 decidedly sluggish. After posting a 5.4 percent year-over increase in the fourth quarter of 2007, the county's year-over job growth cooled in the first quarter of 2008 to 1.3 percent, or a 12-month increase in employment of 53 jobs. Goods-producing industries, such as mining and construction, provided the spark that propelled the economy forward. Also adding employment were the traditional travel and tourism related industries such as retail trade and leisure and hospitality. Minus these contributors, several of the county's other industries appear to have struggled in the quarter. Real estate and rental and leasing in particular were hit hard, shedding 53 jobs over the same quarter last year.

San Juan County:

With the previously announced layoffs at Lisbon Valley Mining Company coming to fruition in the first quarter of 2008 it came as no surprise that San Juan County would experience a significant slowdown in its rate of job growth. Indeed, after eight straight quarters of 3 percent plus job growth rates, year-over job growth in the first quarter fell to 0.9 percent. Losses in manufacturing were magnified by pullbacks in wholesale trade, transportation, and private educational services. However, positive gains were realized in accommodations and food services, retail trade, administrative support, and private health services, which combined added nearly 105 new jobs over the year.

Navigating Occupational Wages cont'd.

Looking at this list it is clear that the old refrain "education pays" holds just as true in the eastern counties of the state as elsewhere, as all ten occupations require significant levels of higher education and specialized training. However, it is possible for individuals working in other occupations to make more—much more, in some cases—than individuals in these ten occupations. This is due to the fact that the OES wage estimates are based on a 2,080-hour work year. Thus, if

a welder were to work 80-hour weeks, they could in theory make more than a pharmacist who worked only 40 hours a week.

Another important way to dissect the data is to compare the eastern counties' wages with that of the state as a whole. That, however, brings with it its own difficulties. Since

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Workforce Development = Economic Development

Partnerships in Action

In recent years, the Department of Workforce Services has successfully partnered with industry and education in workforce development activities and building talent pipeline initiatives. These partnerships have resulted in millions of federal dollars being brought into Utah to train current and future workers in some of Utah's fast growing industries such as advanced composites, mechatronics, biotechnology, biomanufacturing, healthcare, and energy.

New and expanding education and training programs resulting from recent partnerships include:

Composites Materials Technology

Davis Applied Technology College
Partners: ATK Space Systems, Hexcel, EDO Fiber Science, Radius Engineering, Technology Marketing, TCB Composites Company, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), Davis School District, Salt Lake Community College (SLCC), Southern Utah University, Weber State University, Hill Air Force Base and LDS Employment Resource Services

Mechatronics

Utah Valley University
Partners: IM Flash Technologies, Setpoint Systems Inc, Utah Manufacturing Assn., Utah County Academy of Sciences and the Provo, Alpine, Wasatch, Park City, North Summit, Nebo and South Summit School Districts

Biotechnology/Life Sciences

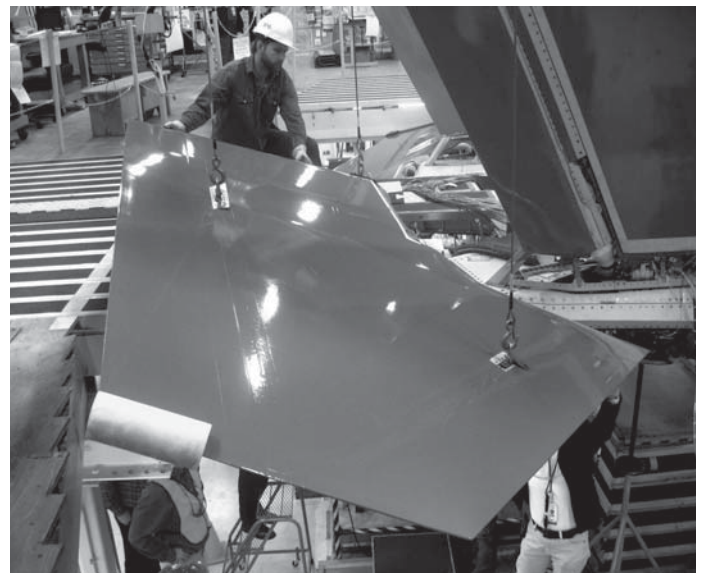
Governor's Office of Economic Development
Partners: ZARS, Merit Medical, Cephalon, ARUP, Pharmanex, Utah Clusters Team, Utah Science, Technology, Research Initiative, Utah Centers of Excellence, U of U, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, SLCC, Utah Technology Commission, Utah Technology Advisory Council, Utah Life Science Assn, Utah Women in Technology, Intermountain Biomedical Assn, Utah Medical Manufacturing Assn, Utah Natural Products Assn, InnovaBio, National Foundation, US Army Dugway Proving Grounds, Idaho Technology, the Leonardo and the Governor's Office of Economic Development



Biomanufacturing

Salt Lake Community College
Granite Technical Institute
Partners: ZARS, Cephalon Utah Natural Product Alliance, Utah Technology Commission and Utah Biomedical Assn.

A trained workforce is the key to continued economic growth in Utah. Many opportunities exist for business to partner with education to provide and upgrade the skills of Utah's workforce that will take us into the 21st Century. For additional information or to become a partner, contact: Lynn Purdin, 801 526-9755, lpurdin@utah.gov, or Melisa Stark, 801 776-7240, mstark@utah.gov.



Navigating Occupational Wages

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our data is gathered through a survey, each estimate is subject to a certain margin of error. Given that the estimates for both the state and the region are subject to these errors, it is possible to have two estimates that look different, but in reality are not statistically different—in statistics-speak, both estimates fall within each other's confidence intervals. That said, the data for Utah and the eastern counties does reveal some interesting tidbits.

Not surprisingly, Utah's eastern counties post statistically lower wages than the state as a whole in management, business and financial operations, computer and mathematical, and life, physical, and social science occupations. Much of this is due to the fact that the eastern counties are not home to the headquarters of major corporations. While there are individuals from the area represented in these occupational groupings, they often make less than individuals working in the state's urban core. This also appears to be the case with legal occupations—the state's legal industry is in Salt Lake City—and healthcare practitioners and technical occupations—the majority of high-paid doctors and specialists are likewise situated along the Wasatch Front.

Do the eastern counties beat the state in any major occupational grouping? Thanks to the region's strong mining and support industries, there are several occupational categories that do exceptionally well. Production occupations—think welders—had wages that were statistically higher than their statewide counterparts. Transportation and material moving occupations—especially conveyor operators and tenders, a mining-related occupation—also did very well when compared to the state.

The one grouping you would expect to do exceptionally well, construction and extraction occupations, were indeed statistically higher than the state average, but only slightly. This quirk in the data can be explained quite simply: the area's vibrant mining industry makes up the bulk of the state's mining industry, hence there isn't much difference in the wage estimates of the two areas.

Check it Out

New wage data just released!

See it on jobs.utah.gov/wi
click on the blue UEDV icon then click on
Utah Occupational Wages

What's Up?

✧ The Governor's Office of Economic Development approved funds to pay for the expansion of broadband access to several rural locations in the state. Each of the communities getting the service has a population of less than 10,000 and is without broadband service. Carbon Emery Telecom was approved for \$214,941—half of the total project cost of \$429,882—to help bring broadband to 159 potential subscribers in Columbia and Kenilworth, both in Carbon County.

-Deseret News, May 21st, 2008

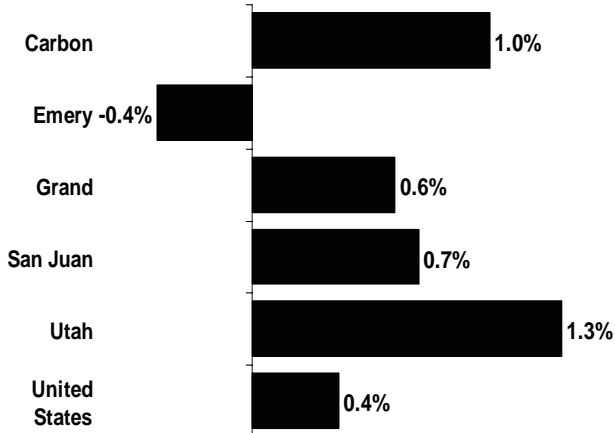
✧ A Canadian company plans to build a uranium-processing mill near Green River in eastern Utah. Mancos Resources Inc. of British Columbia says producers can't make enough yellowcake for the world's growing number of nuclear-fueled plants. The company is the first to agree to buy a parcel in an industrial park made possible by the lease of state trust lands. Mancos has been expanding its land holdings in the area as uranium prices rise. The company will need the approval of the state engineer, the Radiation Control Division, and the Air Quality Division.

-Deseret News, June 27th, 2008

Southeast Utah: Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan

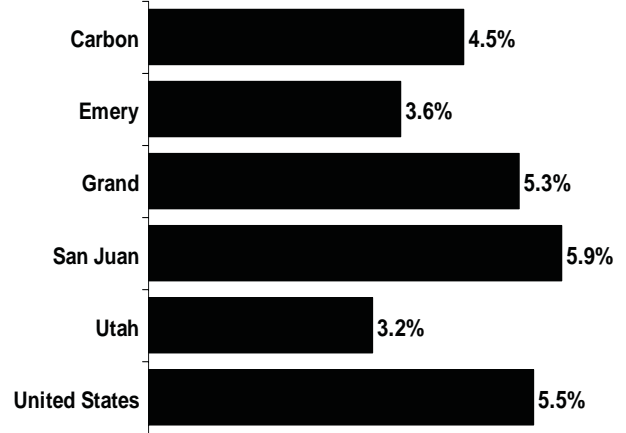
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**Year-over Change in Nonfarm Jobs
March 2007 to March 2008**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate
June 2008**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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